

**FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM****SECTION:** Medical Services Administration**POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL****SUBJECT:** Deferred Exam for Hormonal Contraceptives

**POLICY:** Local agencies may provide required basic services in two visits for selected clients. Hormonal contraceptives, other than IUDs may be given to selected clients provided approved guidelines are followed and arrangements are negotiated for complete medical services to be provided within three months after the initial visit, and in no case may be deferred beyond six months, unless in the clinician's judgment there is a compelling reason for extending the deferral.

**GUIDELINES:**

## 1. Objectives:

- a. To improve access to contraceptive services in family planning clinics with a waiting period for initial exams.
- b. To decrease the amount of time between initiation of sexual activity and use of contraception.
- c. To meet the specialized needs of rural/frontier, migrant, teens, or otherwise underserved clients by assuring appropriate flexibility of program guidelines.

## 2. Assumptions:

- a. The requirement of an initial pelvic examination prior to prescription of hormonal contraceptives is a barrier to access for some clients.
- b. Use of hormonal contraceptives pose smaller risks to health than a pregnancy.

## 3. General Procedure:

Intake may occur on two clinic visits for selected clients.

- a. Client's reason for visit should be identified/entered as Medical exam on the Ahlers CVR form (see appendices for form).
- b. Refer to protocols Deferred Exam – First Visit, CON-1-1, and Deferred Exam – Second Visit, CON-1-2.

## Reference:

1. Program Guidelines for Project Grants for Family Planning Services, January 2001, p. 21, Section 8.3, History, Physical Assessment, and Laboratory Testing - Physical Assessment (female).